

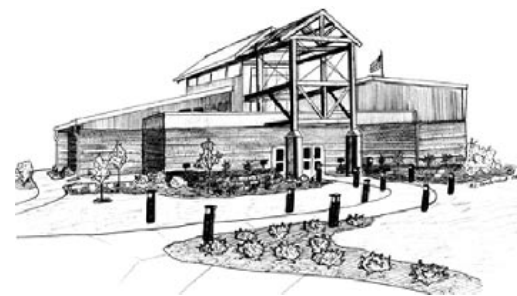
December 28-30

- Story Time 10 am
- Nature Crafts 11 am
- Wildlife Games 1 pm
- Nature Hike 2 pm

Activities begin on the hour
See inside calendar for more details

CABIN FEVER DAYS

Three days of fun to cure the winter blues



Tupelo Times

DECEMBER 2005 & JANUARY 2006 VOL. 1, NO. 4

The Newsletter of the **Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus** Nature Center

“There’s no place like home for the holidays”

Though it’s often been stated in greeting cards and song this time of year, this phrase has taken on a new meaning for me.

My family spent a week this fall hiking, camping, and exploring the mountains out east. The variety of trees, plants, and wildlife we experienced was new and exciting to see. Stunted magnolias and wild rhododendron, striking salamanders and black bear families – these and others were captured both by memory and camera lens. However, one conversation with a local resident made a more memorable impression than any. She had these wonders in her backyard everyday, yet didn’t find them spectacular or of great value. She was too close. Our conversation about the diversity of plants and wildlife from our respective “homes” served to remind me how distant places seem to be held in one’s mind as more exotic, wonderful, and of greater intrinsic value. Many people in our campground had come from all over the United States and Canada for these spectacular sights and experiences, but I wonder how many of them realize the beauty of their own special places back home.

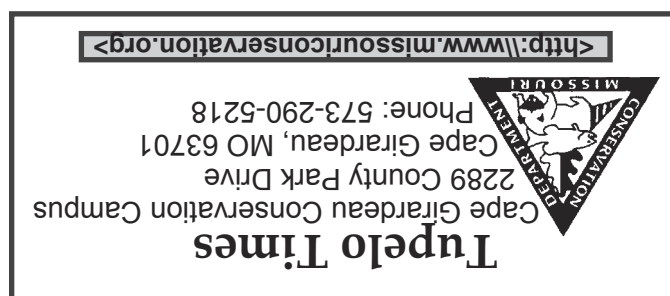
Southeast Missouri - that’s home for me; and I have a new appreciation for it. This year instead of traveling to see extended family for Thanksgiving (as has been the tradition), we stayed home. It was a time to be thankful for the many blessings we’ve received, one of which is a renewed appreciation for this remarkable part of the planet we live on. Southeast Missouri is the most biodiverse region in Missouri, and one of the most biodiverse regions throughout the Midwest. We have

unique natural communities such as cypress swamps, ancient mountaintops, sand prairies, deep caves, rich forests, and the mighty Mississippi. The southeast region has more species of birds, reptiles, amphibians, mussels, and fish than any other part of Missouri. Some of these species exist nowhere else in the world and we have the privilege of having them close by to enjoy and take care of.

This winter affords us the opportunity to go outdoors and enjoy our southeast Missouri home. While winter may not seem the ideal time to explore the outdoors, the experiences can be remarkable. (And just think, there won’t be any ticks and mosquitoes!) Take a hike and look for animal tracks after a snowfall or watch eagles along the Mississippi and at Duck Creek Conservation Area. Take a scenic drive and watch for hoar frost or waterfowl filling the sky. Spend some early mornings on a waterfowl hunt or harvest squirrel or rabbit for a tasty meal. Participate in a century-old tradition of a Christmas Bird Count or listen at night for owls calling during January’s breeding season. Come out to the Conservation Campus Nature Center for the evening stroll, Cabin Fever Days, and other scheduled events for youth and adults. However you spend time outdoors this winter, be reminded of the remarkable natural diversity of our southeast Missouri home.

I still enjoy traveling to distant places to take in cultural and ecological fascinations, but I’ll always be reminded upon my return, that in southeast Missouri, there’s no place like home.

- Steven Juhlin



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Meet the Volunteers ...

The nature center is privileged to have a fine corps of dedicated volunteers to help meet its goals and objectives. Nature Center Volunteers don't come easily and to be considered one takes more than just a willingness to roll up the sleeves. On November 10th, 17 new volunteers were graduated into the program after attending 32 hours of training and preparing for the wide variety of tasks ahead of them. To maintain their status, they attend monthly meetings and work at least 12 hours each month. These volunteers fill their time by assisting at the front desk, leading programs for kids and adults, working stations at large events, preparing the many required materials for programs and events, developing and providing programs in the exhibit lab, meeting with visitors along the trails, answering phone calls and questions, and assisting with animal care. Whatever they do, they always do with excitement and an evident dedication to conservation education. Whether you meet these volunteers at the front desk or on the trail, during a program or in the exhibit lab, let them know how much they are appreciated.

Please welcome the 2005 class of Nature Center Volunteers:

Joan Anderson	Phil Dodson	Paula Ann Gresham	Juanita Kahle	Michelle Randecker	Matt Smith
Julie Beardslee	Denise Dowling	Kelly Hughes	Scott Kelley	Carolyn Sarff	Charlie Wilson
Fred Bollinger	Rebecca Garrett	Liana Jenkins	Lee Parks	Robert Shirley	



To get your free subscription to this publication call 573-290-5218.

Holiday Closings

Trails will be open, but the nature center will be closed December 24-26 for the Christmas holiday. The facility will also be closed December 31-January 2 for the New Year's Day holiday.



Thank You

Donations of Time, Material, and Service

Cody Kneir: Exhibit animal
David Hamm: Snake mount
James Korando: Cane duck call
Kevin Priester: Large black widow spider & egg sack
Karen Tucker: Snake skin
Ray Crawford: Sand prairie plants
William Ownbey: Original wildlife prints and photographs
Charlie Wilson: Library reference books
Family, Friends, and Colleagues of Dr. B. Gene Ramsey: for their contribution through the Missouri Conservation Heritage Foundation

Those purchasing paving stones for the Conservation Campus walkway:

Donna J. Schuette	Jerry & Judy Cummins
Alva Lee Price	Dave & Judy Mana
Tom Wallgren	Janet L. Elaydo
Charlie Wallgren	Eric Dunning
Mike Frieze	

Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center is located in North Cape Girardeau County Park off Kingshighway just east of Interstate 55 at exit 99. The building is open Tuesday through Saturday 8am to 5pm and Sunday noon to 5pm and is closed Mondays, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The area is open daily from sunrise to 10pm in accordance with the Cape Girardeau County Park Rules and Regulations.

Nature center grounds and trails are closed to pets, horses, hunting, collecting, littering, fires, and alcoholic beverages. The trails are also closed to bicycles, jogging, in-line skates, skateboards, scooters, and motorized vehicles.

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Campus Nature Center is operated through hunting and fishing license revenues and through the 1/8% "Design for Conservation" sales tax. There is no admission charge.

Phone: 573/290-5218; Fax: 573/290-5566; Internet: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/cape

Educators' Niche

Winter is here and exploring the outdoors takes on a new perspective. It's great to be an educator.

Please come in and visit our Educator Resource Room. There is lots of great information and resources that are available to take with you...for free. We have department videos available for screening. These videos can then be borrowed free of charge by using the Media Loan List. We will also have activities and lesson plans on hand that educators can take. These activities cover a wide range of subjects and grade levels. No matter what you're teaching you can find something here to accentuate your curriculum.

Upcoming Workshops!

Project Learning Tree Saturday, December 3

Project Learning Tree is a curriculum focusing on forestry resources. There are over 100 interdisciplinary activities that have been correlated with the Show-Me Standards. Activities are geared toward kindergarten through eighth grade. The course will take place on Saturday, December 3. This is a six-hour training workshop that will be held at the Ivey Cabin at Castor River Conservation Area from 9-3. There is a \$15 charge for the training and all materials will be provided. For more information, please contact Bridget Jackson at 573-290-5218, ext 300.

Project Wild Saturday, January 28

Walking, swimming or crawling, wildlife can help teach your students. Please join us for Project Wild and Project Aquatic. These are wildlife themed curricula that were written for teachers by teachers. There are over 100 activities which are carefully indexed for grade level, topic, subject duration, and several other criteria. No matter the grade you teach or the subject, Project Wild can be a wonderful addition to any classroom. The course cost is \$20 and will be held from 9-3:30 on January 28 at the Cape Conservation Campus Nature Center. Come get wild with us. For more information, please contact Bridget Jackson at 573-290-5218, ext 300.

The Nature Shop

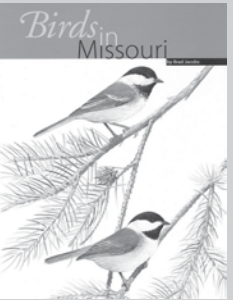
The Nature Shop features a variety of nature-related books, videos/DVDs, and resources to increase awareness and knowledge of conservation and the outdoors.

Special monthly discounts ... **20% Off**
(Conservation Heritage Card discounts do not apply)

DECEMBER

Birds in Missouri

For those who love birds and for those who are about to, this reference book is a must. With beautiful illustrations of 355 species and their habitats this book also features essays that provide insight into the lives of birds, history in Missouri, and bird conservation.

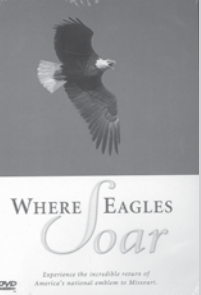


Discounted price: **\$24.00 plus tax**
Soft cover only

JANUARY

Where Eagles Soar DVD

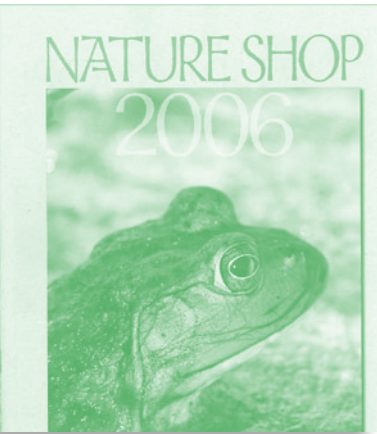
This movie tells not only how these magnificent birds became endangered in Missouri, but how they've been brought back to begin nesting and raising eaglets in this state. Whether they're swooping to catch fish, perched and preening, or feeding their young, the bald eagles in this MDC movie will delight you.

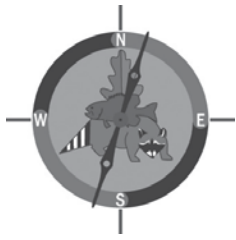


Discounted price: **\$8.00 plus tax**

Holiday Gift Ideas

The Nature Shop at the nature center is a natural for Christmas gifts for the outdoor enthusiast. We carry a large selection of books on topics ranging from birds to bushes. We have many items to encourage the budding naturalist in your family including "bug boxes", first guides, and magnifiers. You can find a new place to hike in the *Hiking Missouri* guide, and even pick up a hickory walking stick or compass to help you on your journey. Show your MDC Heritage card for a 15% discount on regularly priced items. You can also shop from home by going to: www.mdcnatureshop.com, or by calling 1-877-521-8632*. (*Orders placed over the phone, or on the web will be shipped from Jefferson City. Shipping charges will apply. The nature center's Nature Shop does not ship merchandise.) We look forward to seeing you in the Nature Shop this holiday shopping season!





December Events

4

"Adults Only" Nature's Decor Sunday, 1-3pm



The holidays are just around the corner! Are you ready to create a craft to decorate your home or maybe give to a special friend? We will be using some of nature's resources to create wonderful winter wreaths. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.
Registration begins November 15

4

Naturalist's Notebook Sunday, 2-3pm



On the first Sunday of each month, join one of the Naturalists as they select a favorite program from their notebook, set up an interesting discovery table, or explore current natural events along the trail. Regardless of their selection, you'll be glad you came. Families. No registration required.

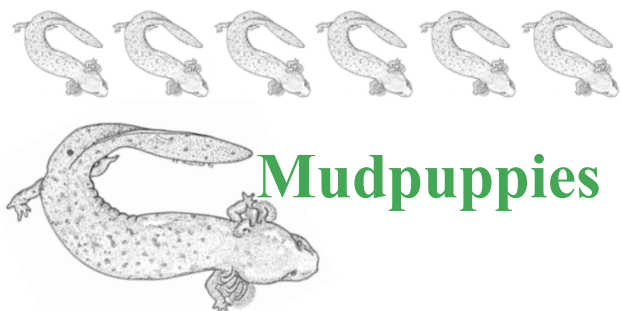
6

Exotic Species Control Control measures for plants and animals in Southeast Missouri

Tuesday, 7-9pm



December is a great time to plan your battle strategy for weedy species that degrade wildlife habitats. Come learn what tools are available. Got problems with fescue, Japanese honeysuckle, sericea lespedeza, or autumn olive? This workshop, led by Natural History Biologist, Bob Gillespie, will increase your understanding of exotic pests. We will learn what new exotic species threaten Missouri wildlife and what the most up-to-date strategies are for the control of these problem plants and animals in southeast Missouri. Ages 12 and up. No registration required.



Mudpuppies

Mudpuppies programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. We regret that we cannot accommodate other ages. Please limit attendance to one 45 minute program per month. An adult must accompany the participant. Registration required.

Winter Bird Treats
Saturday, December 10
11am or 1pm
Tuesday, December 20
10am or 1pm

Not only is feeding the birds in winter fun, it helps them out too! Who is hungry? Watch out the windows to see which birds are visiting the feeders at the nature center. Then make some bird treats to take home to your backyard.

Registration begins December 1



REGISTRATION

There are many programs that require registration. Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after December 1 for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

16

Evening Stroll Friday, 6:30-8:30pm

What a better way to warm up when the temperature dips outside than to bundle up and take an invigorating journey on White Oak Trace. Winter evenings can be enchanting and a good way to experience nature. Discover Missouri outdoors as you feel the peaceful winter breeze and experience the night's sounds on one of our evening strolls at 6:30, 7:00, or 7:30 pm. Following each hike, storyteller, Dean Allison, will share stories over hot drinks and a holiday snack. Please wear appropriate clothing and sturdy hiking boots or tennis shoes and bring a flashlight. Don't want to hike? Join us for storytelling at 7:00, 7:30, or 8:00 pm. The nature shop will also be open for last-minute holiday shopping. Families. No registration required.



Snappers



Snappers programs are designed for kids ages 7-11. We regret that we cannot accommodate other ages during this program. An adult must accompany the participant. Registration required.

Tis' the Season... To make it yourself!

Tuesday, December 13
6:30-8:00pm

Tired of giving the same old gifts for the holidays? Wish you could make something for friends and family? If so, you can't miss this event! Nature is always giving, and in this case, it can save you some cash. Learn how to take every day objects and make them into beautiful holiday gifts. This hands-on program will leave everyone in the holiday spirit and spark the creative side within.

Registration begins December 1



28-30 Cabin Fever Days Wednesday-Friday

Do you have the winter blues? Are you tired of being cooped up inside? If you said yes to either of these questions, we have the cure for you! Three days of fun filled nature discovery. Each day will feature events such as a hike on White Oak Trace, nature crafts, a story time, or wildlife games. Check the back cover for a list of activities and times. Families. No registration required.



Temporary Display

Stop by the nature center's "Auditorium Gallery" during the month of **December**

to view artwork submitted by students from the Missouri Duck Stamp Contest. You will be amazed by the talent.



Featured Films

shown in the auditorium
Sundays from 3-4pm
Call the nature center
information desk to
find out what videos
will be shown this
month.



Racers

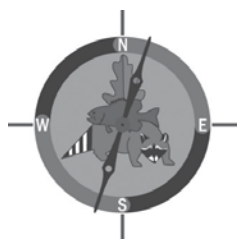
Racers programs are designed for teens ages 12-17, are usually a few hours in length, and are often off-site trips. We regret that we cannot accommodate other ages. Registration required.

Taxidermy Basics
Thursday, December 15
6:30-8:00pm

Take a trip to Southeast Taxidermy in Jackson to observe the art of mounting and tanning with taxidermist, Mike Goodwin. Learn what it takes to turn proud hunting moments into lifelong trophies. Mike will show you the step-by-step methods of mounting and tanning animals in realistic ways. Thinking of going into taxidermy? Mike will be happy to answer any questions you may have before you get into the business yourself. Permission slips required and must be signed prior to departure.

Registration begins December 1





January Events

REGISTRATION

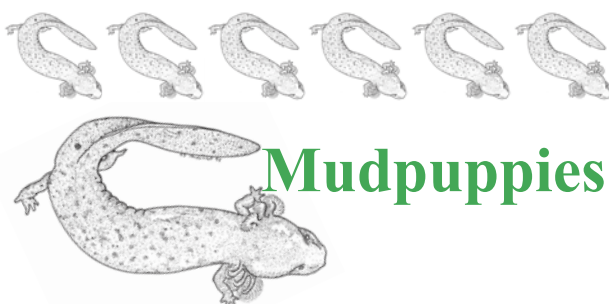
There are many programs that require registration. Please call the nature center at **573/290-5218** on or after January 3 for this month's programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

3 Rabbits, Rabbits Everywhere!

Tuesday, 7-9pm



Got rabbits? If not, this workshop is for you. Come learn the ways of the wily rabbit, how they live, what they eat, and how to grow more. This workshop will be presented by Larry Heggemann, Private Land Conservationist, for Cape Girardeau county. Information will be provided on the life history of cottontail rabbits and will include how to improve habitat conditions on the farm for the furry little critters. Ages 12 and up. No registration required.



Mudpuppies

Mudpuppies programs are designed for kids ages 3-6. We regret that we cannot accommodate other ages. Please limit attendance to one 45 minute program per month. An adult must accompany the participant. Registration required.

Animal Tracks

**Saturday, January 7
11am or 1pm**

**Tuesday, January 17
10am or 1pm**

Who's there? Winter is here and animals are all around. Many times a track is the only thing that tells us who has been wandering along White Oak Trace. We will take a short hike to look for signs of critters that call the nature center woods home and then sit back in the warmth of the classrooms during story time, and make your own tracks craft to take home with you.

Registration begins January 3



8 Naturalist's Notebook Sunday, 2-3pm



On the first Sunday of each month, join one of the Naturalists as they select a favorite program from their notebook, set up an interesting discovery table, or explore current natural events along the trail.

Regardless of their selection, you'll be glad you came. Families. No registration required.



Snappers



Snappers programs are designed for kids ages 7-11. We regret that we cannot accommodate other ages during this program. An adult must accompany the participant. Registration required.

Trappers of the Southeast

Tuesday, January 10

6:30-8:00pm

Southeast Missouri was once covered in some of the most rugged land in the country. Parts of the vast swamps of this area were considered treacherous and therefore very few called this region home. Without the settlement of humans, southeast Missouri was truly wild; an area where wolves, bears and mountain lions stalked their prey. With all of this wildlife, there was a fortune to be made and men willing to try. Discover the tools and techniques used to capture wildlife and tame the swamps of southeast Missouri. Explore the world of these early trappers and observe how difficult it was to survive the great outdoors.

Registration begins January 3



13 Owl Prowl Friday, 6:30-8pm

"Who cooks for you? Who cooks for y'all?" If you can remember this phrase, you are on your way to a successful owl prowl. We'll learn owl calls, see what they eat, and investigate the behaviors and characteristics of these amazing raptors. Then, we'll take a night hike on White Oak Trace and see if we can locate some of Missouri's most misunderstood creatures. Families. Registration required.



15 Feeder Watch Sunday, 2-4pm



Look! Who's that? Lots of birds spend the winter here in southeast Missouri. You may have even seen some in your backyard. Stop by anytime to watch the feeders here at the nature center and identify the birds that come to eat their lunch. Learn what you can do to attract these feathered fliers to your own backyard. No registration required.

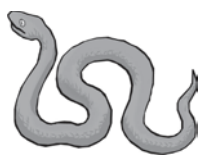


21 "Adults Only" Wild Game Cooking Saturday, 10:30am-Noon

Join educator and outdoor writer, Mark Goodwin, as he turns wild game into fabulous cuisine. Learn proper cooking techniques, get tips for success, and sample some of his favorite dishes. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.



Racers



Racers programs are designed for teens ages 12-17, are usually a few hours in length, and are often off-site trips. We regret that we cannot accommodate other ages. Registration required.

Eagle Eyes?

**Saturday, January 28
1-4:30pm**

Test your eagle eyes in the search for our nation's icon – the Bald Eagle. We'll travel to MINGO National Wildlife Refuge near Puxico, Missouri, to view wintering bald eagles, and maybe even nesting bald eagles. You'll also find out why the refuge is their ideal habitat, what they eat, how they live, and much more. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather. Permission slips must be signed by parent/guardian prior to departure.

Registration begins January 3



Coming Next Month.... February 4



SCOUTIN' AROUND Saturday, 10am-4pm

Calling all Scouts! This program is designed to help you earn your nature-related badges and patches! Hikes, discovery tables, and career information will be offered to help connect you with the land and assist you in meeting your goals. Event fliers will be available to scout leaders in mid-December.

Registration begins January 3



Featured Films

shown in the auditorium
Sundays from 3-4pm
Call the nature center
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will be shown this
month.